

The Agricultural Problem (continued)

Khrushchev has been closely identified with Soviet agriculture during the period since Stalin's death. Thus, the effectiveness of recently adopted policies in increasing agricultural production has considerable political significance to Khrushchev. In this respect he has been rather lucky because of fortuitous weather conditions in several recent years but particularly in 1958 when a bumper crop was produced.

With respect to the current year, Khrushchev recently said that crop prospects were good throughout the Soviet Union with the exception of the Volga Region and some parts of the Urals Region. However, other available information suggests that prospects for the 1959 harvest at present are less than good.

~~SECRET~~

Questions on Soviet Agriculture(Continued)

5. What are the current prospects for the 1959 harvest in the USSR?
6. What measures are to be taken to effect the planned transfer of agricultural labor to industry during the Seven Year Plan?
7. To what extent will rural villages be consolidated and reconstructed into agrogorods by 1965?
8. Why was Khrushchev's May 1957 program for catching-up with the U.S. in the per capita production of Meat, in 1960-61, and Milk and Butter by 1958 dropped?

~~SECRET~~